

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to provide support for the main unit IP address information notifying part 230. Support for the amendment can be found on page 3, lines 14-18 of the application as filed and thus does not introduce new matter.

Amending the specification as set forth above is believed to obviate the drawing objection noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-10 were previously pending in the application. Claims 2 and 5 are canceled, leaving claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-10 for consideration.

Claims 1-6 and 9-10 are rejected as unpatentable over SHUICHI JP 2000-092107 in view of YUUJI et al. JP 09-330284. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 and recites that the DHCP server function part attaches only the assigned address IP address to a DHCP message to terminals which have failed in authorization.

Paragraphs [0020] and [0021] of SHUICHI teach that in response to the address request from a subordinate terminal, the IP address of the subordinate terminal and the address of a directory server are distributed from a DHCP server.

According to SHUICHI, the directory server is notified to the subordinate terminal unconditionally when the power source of the subordinate terminal is turned on. SHUICHI does not teach or suggest that the DHCP server function part attaches only the assigned address IP address to a DHCP message to terminals which have failed in authorization.

YUUIJI teaches that an address request is sent from a subordinate terminal to an administration unit in a frame including the MAC address and personnel information about the user of the subordinate terminal. The administration unit collates the personnel information in the frame with a personnel database. Only in the cases when the personnel information matches the database is an IP address assigned.

In YUUGI, information for identifying the MAC address and the user is authenticated. The only information used to identify the terminal is the MAC address. Accordingly, the main object of YUUGI is authentication at the user level. YUUGI does not teach or suggest that the DHCP server function part attaches only the assigned address IP address to a DHCP message to terminals which have failed in authorization.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

By way of further explanation, an object of the present invention is to prevent illegal access by authentication of the

subordinate terminals. In one embodiment, the MAC address is used as the information to be authenticated; however, hardware level information such as security information and program information can be notified to prevent illegal connection from the terminals.

Neither SHUICHI nor YUUGI prevents illegal access by authentication of the terminals.

Moreover, neither of the references teaches or suggests that at the time of failure in authentication, only the IP address of the subordinate terminal is notified, and the administration server address is not notified.

As set forth above, YUUGI allows all terminals to connect, as seen in the "Problem to be Solved" wherein even when a network computer and a server do not exist on the network, the network computer is able to boot a basic program. YUUGI attempts to avoid mistakes by maintaining a database to avoid duplicate user information.

Neither of the references discloses nor suggests terminal identification information attached to an address request frame by the DHCP as information for authentication.

Claim 3 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 and is also believed patentable over the proposed combination of references for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Claims 4, 6, 9 and 10 depend from claims 1

and 3 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the proposed combination of references.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected as unpatentable over SHUICHI in view of YUUGI et al. and further in view of GRITZER et al. 2003/0142805. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

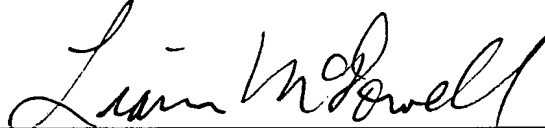
GRITZER is only cited for the teaching that DHCP can be used to determine the IP address of an IP telephone and that the IP address is obtained from a gatekeeper control unit. GRITZER does not teach or suggest what is recited in claims 1 and 3. As set forth above, SHUICHI in view of YUUGI does not teach or suggest what is recited in claims 1 and 3. Since claims 7 and 8 depend from claims 1 and 3, respectively, and further define the invention, the proposed combination of references would not have rendered obvious claims 7 and 8.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in dark ink.

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